GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3120
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
VIOLATION OF SAFETY NORMS IN COAL MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has violated the safety norms during the blasts in Western Coal Fields Ltd. as reported in Lokmat Samachar dated July 31, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted regarding the violation of safety norms during blasts leading to insecurity in the residential areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) No, Sir. Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) has not violated any safety norms during blasting as reported in Lokmat Samachar dated 31st July, 2007.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above

(d) to (e) However, an enquiry has been conducted into the allegations as appeared in the news paper report by Safety Department of WCL and investigations revealed that the report published in the daily "Dainik Lokmat Samachar" on 31-7-2007 was incorrect.

Annexure

Details of investigation into a Newspaper Report appeared in the daily Dainik Lokmat Samachar, Nagpur dated 31-7-2007 titled " VIKOLIKE BISPHOTAN SE DASHAT"

Details of investigation:

1. Dorwasa mine is situated in Majri Area and it is about 8-10 Km from Bhadrawati
2. Dhorwasa OCM mine embankment is not more than 100 m from the village but the nearest blasting place is more than 300 m away from contractual quarry and more than 400 m from departmental quarry.
3. Minimum distance of school building from blasting place was 310 m and 410 m respectively.
4. Burial place with shade was found within 250 m of blasting place of contractual quarry.
5. No damage to school buildings, huts or shade or burial place was observed.
6. Not even mark of any flying rock observed n or nearby village.
7. Residents of village conveyed that no fly off rocks ever observed in their village.
8. Between the quarry edge and village there was a PWD road and some barren land belong to villagers. This place is mostly used by villagers as play field and grazing field, which lies within 800 m of blasting range.
9. Local management shown some danger board alongwith some portable strong rest shelters along the PWD road to be used during blasting operation.
10. Before blasting operation all precautions are taken to remove every individual persons, cattle straying within 300 m of blasting range.
11. During blasting operation, it is true that the children, teachers of the school remain inside the rooms as additional precautionary measures.
12. It was also true that in case of death, the PWD road, the burial place cannot be used during the period of blasting. Although there was no such incidence of waiting in the past.
13. Last blasting done in contractual patch which is nearest to the village.

a) In Overburden : 23-6-2006
b) In Coal : 30-6-2007

Since then the mine was told to be waterlogged and hence the claim that two day before 30-7-2007, observance of fly off rock of weight 5 kg seems to be not true

14. School officials also denied such occurrence as 28-7-2007 was Saturday and school was open upto 11.00 a.m. and usually blasting is done at 4 p.m.

Conclusion: The report published with the heading "Vekoli Ke Bishphoton Se Deshat" in the daily 'Dainik Lokmat Samachar' Nagpur on 31-7-2007 is, therefore, incorrect.